

## **Education Exhibition**

While little Tabish from Nihar didi's class was excited to tell everyone how he had grown four grade levels in one year using his tracker mountains, Chaitra didi and Anushree didi's children came all the way from Pune to tell people about their big goals and the various clubs. "We have various clubs like dance music art for children who have non-academic interests," says a child excitedly. All this and more were on display at the education exhibition on the day one at InspirED. The exhibition was divided into four main themes or strands called Pathway to opportunities, academic achievement and values and mindsets.

With educators and teachers coming all the way from Pune and various parts of Mumbai to attend inspirED a lot of ideas were shared and for a change teachers learnt. "I come in every year for inspirED and it never fails to inspire me to do my best as a teacher. I have learnt a lot from these education exhibitions and plan to implement all of these in my school," said Sharmista Guha who has 38 years of experience in teaching and is the Assistant Head Mistress of Bishop School in Pune.

With each strand attracting a lot of people, the children presenting the exhibition enjoyed the attention and enthusiastically answered any questions that were put forth to them by the participants. "I want to go to college so that I can become an artist," said a child from Arnab Datta's class while showing his beautiful paintings to everyone. Arnab who is a 2010 Teach for India fellow has linked all his class values to college and has invested his children in education and the importance of getting a college degree. The catchy "Wavin' Flag" song by K'naan doubles up as a class song for Arnab's class with kids singing "When I get older, I will be smarter, we will go to college, just like a super star" for everyone

Chaitra and Anushree, 2010 fellows of Teach for India who teach in St Francis Pune are determined to give their children the best they can in the two years of their fellowship. They have taken care to encourage children who excel in academics and whose interest lie in other areas too. "I have both academic and non academic trackers in my class as it is important for my children to see their growth," said Chaitra Murlidhar, 2010 Teach for India fellow.

In all the participants felt that the education exhibition provided a great platform to share ideas and leverage on others' strengths to transform education in the country.

-Revathi Ramanan